

*Letter Responds to Reports of Weaker-than-Intended Section 619 Proposals*

WASHINGTON – Today, Reps. Earl Blumenauer and Maurice Hinchey are [sending a letter to financial regulators](#)

[PDF] expressing concern about recent press reports that initial proposals on section 619 of the *Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act* (*The Act*)

, popularly known as the “Volcker Rule,” are significantly weaker than intended by Congress. The Act clearly intends the Volcker Rule to prohibit proprietary trading by U.S. banking entities in order to limit risk, protect shareholders, and protect the global financial system.

“Families in Oregon are still reeling from the financial crisis, which was caused in part by banks taking excessive risks,” Rep. Blumenauer stated. “Congress passed the Volcker Rule to prevent this reckless behavior from ever happening again. The proposed rule reverses course and would allow banks to continue taking the kinds of risks that would once again raise the specter of global financial collapse. I am urging the regulatory agencies to draft a strong Volcker Rule to protect consumers and to put an end to the ‘heads, banks win; tails, taxpayers lose’ mentality.”

Congressman Maurice Hinchey (D-NY) added, “When the economy collapsed because of the recklessness of big banks, ordinary people paid the price with their jobs and savings. That’s why I’m urging Chairman Bernanke to implement the Volcker Rule in a way that stops the risky trading as soon as possible. We have to put an end to the casino-like atmosphere that has dominated our banking sector for far too long. We gave the Fed the tools they need to rein in the risky trading and now they need to use them.”

Reps. Welch, Conyers, and Filner also signed the letter, which was sent to Chairman of the Federal Reserve, Ben Bernanke, Acting Chairman of the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation Board of Directors, Martin Gruenberg, Acting Comptroller of the Currency, John Walsh, Securities and Exchange Commission Chairperson, Mary Schapiro, and U.S. Commodity Futures Trading Commission Chairman, Gary Gensler.